

From: [Michelle Wilson](#)
To: [Angie Gonzalez](#); [Chris Ghione](#)
Subject: 19 supplement - FW: El Toro Trail, City Council Meeting 12/7, note from Craig Lore
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 3:24:53 PM

Another supplement

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From: Ken Meagor [mailto:Ken.Meagor@pinnaclebankonline.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 3:25 PM
To: Michelle Wilson
Subject: El Toro Trail, City Council Meeting 12/7, note from Craig Lore

Michelle,

For benefit of the City Council meeting on 12/7, I would like to forward a message I received from Craig Lore regarding his thoughts on the proposed El Toro Trail after I posted a notice of the upcoming meeting to South Valley Running Club.

See email below.

Thanks,

Ken Meagor

SVP, Sr. Relationship Manager



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From: Ken Meagor <kmeagor@yahoo.com>
Date: November 29, 2016 at 1:23:37 PM PST
To: southvalleyrunningclub@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: [southvalleyrunningclub] Fwd: Important El Toro Mtg

Thanks for your thoughts and support for this project, Craig.

On Nov 29, 2016, at 1:12 PM, Craig Lore bookdeep@pacbell.net [southvalleyrunningclub] <southvalleyrunningclub@yahoo.com> wrote:

Ken, thank you for posting this. I suggest that you also post to the Facebook Yahoo Group.

I am in favor of this proposal to develop a trail on and around El Toro in Morgan Hill.

From my observations, proposed trails such as this--which would almost always benefit the vast majority of local residents--are *a/ways* opposed by the minority, neighbors who are closest to the project. These neighbors are often well organized, and they attend city council meetings in larger numbers than those who might be in favor; therefore, their voice is the loudest that the city council hears. And because elected officials are very conscious of their electability, they pay attention to this minority of neighbors who oppose the project and ignore the the rest of the community that often is in the majority, but who failed to attend the meetings.

I would, of course, expect those whose property lies closest to the project to object. Whether the project would benefit them, or the community at large, the knee-jerk reaction is to oppose it. The objections to these types of projects are always the same: anticipated noise, trash, and increased crime. Nobody, of course, can predict that these objections are unfounded--there might be some unwanted noise or trash; there could be some increase in crime. But, of course, neither can any one predict that the items listed as objections will not take place.

In my observations, however, the objections of local homeowners are exaggerated and the expected consequences that they state are minimal or nonexistent. The people who would venture climbing El Toro, are not typically those who would abuse the privilege. Trash can be minimized by a public policy program. Noise from cars may be an issue, though I doubt the volume of cars will be great; the climb is strenuous, so talking and laughter will likely be minimal and not loud enough to cause offense anyway. The parking lot can be closed by a gate at night to minimize the gathering of "criminals," and most criminals are unlikely to take up hiking; people who might gain access to properties via their

backyards, could find access anyway if they were determined enough.

Property owners are naturally protective of their privacy. But in England, for example, the concept of privately owned public spaces does not exist. Open spaces are the property of all the people, and the right to access is open to everyone regardless of fences or farmers' pastures. I wouldn't want, or expect, this level of access in every proposed trail or open space project in America; however, oftentimes the public *should* have a voice in opening their community to access to the beauty that surrounds them.

I urge everyone who would like to see access to El Toro and additional trails in the community, to attend this meeting. The city council needs to see an overwhelmingly large number of people in favor in order to overbalance the people who are opposed. These projects often get turned down because the minority--those opposed--attend the meetings in large numbers, and those who are in favor fail to take the initiative to show up and make their opinions' known and felt by the elected officials: They read in the paper the morning after the vote that the proposed trails have been voted down, and they think "Oh that's too bad. It would have been a good idea." If you think this is a good idea, go to the meeting and show your support.

Gotta run, Craig